



# GREEN SCENE

July 2014

## ORANGE GROVE TAKES ROOT



***Beautiful new park in Hacienda Heights brings fresh recreation, relaxation opportunities to local community.***

It was an exciting day in Hacienda Heights on May 28, as some 500 residents and community leaders were on hand to celebrate the dedication of Orange Grove Park, located at 14505 Orange Grove Ave. in Hacienda Heights.

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chairman Don Knabe, Department of Parks and Recreation Chief Deputy Director John Wicker, Community Development Commission Executive Director Sean Rogan and Hacienda La Puente Unified School District Board President Gina Kwok were among those in attendance at the ceremony. Made possible by funding from Chairman Knabe, creation of the \$1.8 million park is owed to a partnership between the offices and agencies represented by those individuals.

Following the ceremonial ribbon-cutting, a bevy of doves were released and took flight toward the picturesque hills of Hacienda Heights, which form the backdrop to the 5.5 acre park.

"The result of all our work together," Wicker said in his remarks, "is this

beautiful ... space, which we are sure this community will enjoy and be proud to call its own for generations to come." Special thanks also go to Deputy Director Joe Mendoza, Regional Operations Manager Mika Yamamoto, Regional Recreation Director Melinda Mayoral, Hacienda Heights Recreation Managers Susan Brown and Letty Guerrero and Project Manager Sam Adams.

Nestled in a temperate environment that once made it ideal for cultivating the citrus groves for which the area was famous in its early history, the park boasts a host of amenities, including: a quarter-mile jogging path; children's play area; exercise stations; restrooms; shade structures; picnic tables; and a 15-space parking lot.

In addition, the park also features a fascinating fixture: a wide entryway, featuring trellis-covered seating, funnels visitors to the Sun Dial Plaza — which incorporates a human sun-dial feature and compass design. Through interactive features and design detailing, the feature educates park visitors about seasonal solar

changes, and also includes a scale representation of planetary distances and orbits.

Keeping with the spirit of fostering native species and conserving water, the landscaping at Orange Grove Park also includes drought-tolerant plants and utilizes a state-of-the-art "smart controller" irrigation system. Climatic influences created the need to choose a flora palette capable of withstanding both the arid environment along with the drying Santa Ana winds that arrive from the northwest during the summer.

Having formerly been an undeveloped parcel adjacent to Orange Grove Elementary School, the park now serves as an afterschool and weekend haven for children and parents alike. We hope it will serve as a beautiful green space for families to enjoy for years to come.

— **Catarah Hampshire**

# DIRECTOR'S DESK RUSS GUINEY

We celebrate Park and Recreation Month in July — a perfect time to reflect on a recently-celebrated anniversary, one that celebrates an important milestone in a concept that defines what we do every day in our Department.

Say this five times fast: “sesquicentennial.” It means 150 years, and June 30 marked that period of time since President Abraham Lincoln signed the Yosemite Grant. With that act, in 1864, the United States became the first nation on Earth to set aside



At the May 19 Board of Supervisors meeting, California State Parks Angeles District Superintendent Craig Sap (center) and Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Superintendent David Szymanski (second from left) of the National Park Service joined (left to right) Director Russ Guiney, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Deputy Director Hayden Sohm and Chief Deputy Director John Wicker for a special presentation in honor of the sesquicentennial of the Yosemite Grant.

a great expanse of land exclusively for preservation and public enjoyment. This set in motion the creation of parks of every size all over the globe.

That stroke of the presidential pen, allocating those lands to the public trust, also earned California the distinction of having the world’s first state park. The Yosemite Grant deeded the beautiful Yosemite Valley

and Mariposa Grove to California (it was later absorbed into the National Park system) on the promise that “the property shall be unalienable forever and preserved and improved as a place of public resort.”

Sound familiar? It should, because the work you do every day is an important part of a proud legacy of serving others by preserving nature and making it accessible to all who would enjoy it.

Together, we are meeting that challenge. All throughout Park and Recreation Month, let’s honor that legacy by reaffirming our commitment to the mission of this Department and the values that make it great.

## LOOK WHO’S GROWING!

### *Acquisition will expand the northern boundary of Vasquez Rocks Natural Area.*

In an ongoing effort to preserve and increase public access to open space, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on May 20 approved the acquisition of approximately 32 acres of land adjacent to Vasquez Rocks Natural Area Park in Agua Dulce.

At a total project cost of \$702,000 — including \$479,000 in Proposition A funds made available by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, as well as a \$200,000 State of California Habitat Conservation Grant — the acquisition will expand the northern boundary of Vasquez Rocks Natural Area and preserve open space for public education. The land includes two blue line streams, two pristine canyons, riparian habitat and a wildlife corridor for several species — including mountain lions, mule deer and bobcats. Thanks to Francine Choi, Faith Parducho, Imee Perius and Kim Bosell and the Grants team for all their efforts to make this happen! — **Andre Herndon**



## WHERE IN THE DEPARTMENT



# IS THIS ???????

**ANSWER ON PAGE 4**



# DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZED WITH TWO NATIONAL AWARDS



**F**or outstanding work in programs and partnerships, the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation was recently honored with two prestigious awards by the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials (NACPRO) — one for a youth internship program, another for the efforts of a support organization that has been in existence for more than a half-century.

Honored as a program of the year: Careers in Conservation Summer Internship Program. A landmark multi-agency initiative, the program is the product of a strong partnership — an alliance that includes the Department of Parks and Recreation, the City of Pasadena Human Service and Recreation Department and Pasadena Unified School District Career Pathways. These and other organizations joined forces to create a unique opportunity for young people to explore career paths vital to the future of park and recreation services.

By placing a strong emphasis on sustainability, the two-month program creates a wealth of opportunities for interns to receive hands-on instruction in issues related to conservation and environmental stewardship — including native plant habitat conservation and restoration, hazardous waste disposal, renewable energy and sustainable design.

Participants completed the program, in part, by working at one of two host sites — one of which was Eaton Canyon Natural Area Park, where

students took part in environmental studies and various work projects.

Guided by staff and docent naturalists, interns received hands-on instruction about California native animals, diminishing wildlife corridors and the consequences of urban interphase.

Department staff and volunteers deserving of recognition for contributing to this program include Frank Gonzales, Kim Bosell, Susan Martorana, Helen Wong, Anthony Withers, Diane Alarcon, Edna Erickson, Julissa Galicia Martinez, Kenia Loyola, Sandra Dininger, Linda Therrien, Debbie Goodwin, Russ Kimura, Debbie Walt, Frank Hoffman, Dave Numer, Jonathan Numer Francis X. Sanchez, Jennifer Emmsley, Bob Dollins, Brian Johnson, Marilyn Hildebrandt, Christopher Nyerges and Darienne Hetherman. Others who made big contributions include Mercy Santoro and Rozanne Adanto of the City of Pasadena Human Services and Recreation Department; Judy A. Turner of the Pasadena Educational Foundation; Kardia Pinckney of Ideal Youth Inc.; Roberto Morales of Outward Bound; and Jason Anderson of the USDA/U.S. Forest Service.

In the environmental/conservation category, honors go to Descanso Gardens Guild Inc, which was entered in the category of Outstanding Support Organization. At a moment in history when the educational and environmental leadership role played by

public gardens has never been more critical, Descanso Gardens Guild, Inc. — which oversees operations and fundraising at the 160-acre oasis of botanic beauty nestled in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains — stands out for its longevity, effectiveness and strong commitment to fulfilling those roles.

Due in large part to the work of the Guild, this public-private partnership with the Department is thriving:

As of April 2014, Descanso Gardens counted an all-time high of 20,000 individual members. Its dynamic volunteer program includes more than 200 dedicated individuals, providing more than 14,000 hours of annual service in all aspects of the Gardens' operations.

The first significant expansion of the Gardens' publicly accessible garden in more than two decades is underway: a \$786,000 project to recreate the oak woodlands, meadows and chaparral that defined the landscape before the site was developed by its original owner.

These accomplishments illustrate the commitment shown by the Guild and its members for more than a half-century.

NACPRO is an affiliate of the National Association of Counties. The awards were presented this month in New Orleans during the organization's annual conference, where Director Russ Guiney accepted them on behalf of the Department. — **Andre Herndon**



## PEOPLE GET READY

A recent series of small earthquakes in Southern California have underscored the importance of being ready for any situation. On June 21, in partnership with Board of Supervisors Chairman Don Knabe, an estimated 2,000 people came to Peter F. Schabarum Regional Park for a special Emergency Preparedness Fair to learn more about keeping themselves and their families safe. With guest speakers and exhibitors that included the Sheriff's, Fire and Animal Care & Control Departments, attendees received instruction on how to be ready, and had the opportunity to obtain potentially life-saving equipment and supplies. Great job by Connie Douglas and the entire team at Schabarum Park for putting on an excellent event!

# SPROUTING HEALTHY HABITS

**At the new Little Green Fingers community garden at El Cariso Community Regional Park, small hands will make a big impact.**

**O**n a beautiful Saturday morning in May, Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, members of the Sylmar community and a host of others gathered to dedicate the new Little Green Fingers community garden at El Cariso Community Regional Park.

The first of its kind in the Sylmar area, the garden is reserved for families with children under the age of 5. Meant to help fight the growing epidemic of childhood obesity, the new garden will give families the ability to grow their own healthy fruits and vegetables. In addition to providing the garden, the Little Green Fingers organization emphasizes a commitment to healthy living by providing gardeners with a variety of informational classes on gardening, cooking, and nutrition.

"We've taken an unused section of the park and turned it into a thriving garden for children and families to enjoy," Supervisor Yaroslavsky said at the May 17 dedication. "It's a great addition, because while many residents already use the park for play and exercise, thanks to the garden they'll now have an opportunity to pick up some locally-



grown fruits and vegetables for a healthier lifestyle."

Comprised of 39 raised garden beds, fruit trees and play areas, the garden is part of a combined effort by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, the Department of Parks and Recreation, Little Green Fingers, Los Angeles Conservation Corps, the LA Neighborhood Land Trust, and is funded by a grant from First 5 LA.

— Heather Larson

## ON YouTube



**W**ith support from a number of committed partners, our 2014 Parks After Dark program is in full swing! Now in its fifth year, the program offers extended park hours and special programming on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at six parks: Ted Watkins Memorial Park, Franklin D. Roosevelt Park, Jesse Owens Community Regional Park (June 12-August 9) and City Terrace Park, Pamela County Park and Loma Alta Park (July 10-August 16).

On our YouTube channel, watch a new Public Information team video report on why Parks After Dark is such a worthwhile and popular program: <http://bit.ly/1mArpo3>



## WHERE IN THE DEPARTMENT

**ANSWER**—Created by Kim Emmerson, the mosaic sculpture Water Henge: H2O = Life is located at Cerritos Community Regional Park. It consists of five free-standing sculptures that tell the history of water in Cerritos and the Los Angeles Basin with the use of text and imagery. The largest sculpture is approximately 13' tall, and all are constructed from expanded polystyrene (EPS) and coated with cement and ceramic tile mosaics. The City of Cerritos provided matching funds for the execution of this project, and the artwork was dedicated on January 26, 2009. — **Ansley B. Davies**



## 20 YEARS



"Dingo" Cabral  
South Agency



Shui King Kam  
Administrative Services Agency



Bertha Ruiz-Hoffmann  
Planning & Development  
Agency

## 25 YEARS



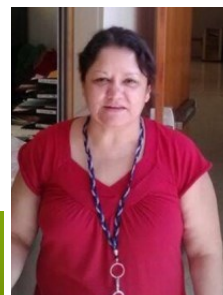
James Barber  
Planning & Development  
Agency



William Hayes  
South Agency



Shawn McAdory  
Regional Facilities Agency



Margarita "Margaret" Trujillo  
South Agency

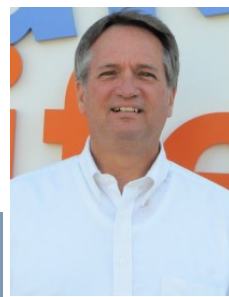
## 30 YEARS



Gilbert Becerra  
South Agency

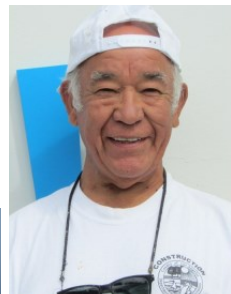


Dennis Langsdale  
Regional Facilities  
Agency



Wesley Morga  
North Agency

## 35 YEARS



Ray Munguia  
North Agency



Martin Yuvienco  
North Agency

## 40 YEARS

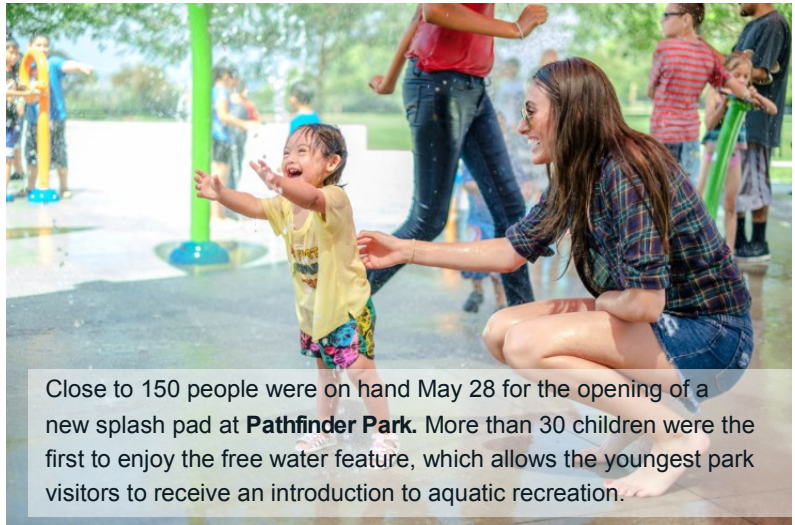


Frank Rivas  
Regional Facilities Agency





## How your work is making lives better across Los Angeles County



Close to 150 people were on hand May 28 for the opening of a new splash pad at **Pathfinder Park**. More than 30 children were the first to enjoy the free water feature, which allows the youngest park visitors to receive an introduction to aquatic recreation.



More than 500 people enjoyed the Parks After Dark kickoff on June 12 at **Ted Watkins Park**, where the crowd was treated to a live concert, Zumba classes, basketball tournaments and much more.



On June 21, more than 300 people came to the **El Cariso Community Regional Park** gymnasium to attend closing ceremonies for the park's popular youth basketball program.



Thousands descended on the East L.A. Civic Center on June 29, as Supervisor Gloria Molina and the Department of Parks and Recreation presented the Rock the 29th all-day festival, concert and fireworks spectacular.



At **Pearblossom Park** on May 27 and 29, a number of children participated in a Be Brave Be Safe self-defense class, where Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputies provided them with important lessons on self-defense and awareness of their surroundings.



# 'SOLAR' ENERGY



With strong support from Pamela Park staff, Duarte High students shine in annual competition.

**A**lternative energy is a hot topic in Los Angeles County — and in a dynamic partnership with Pamela Park, a group of Duarte High School students are showing how the next generation might address future power needs.

These teens comprised one of dozens of Southern California teams that competed May 18-20 in the Solar Cup, hosted at Lake Skinner in Temecula. Culminating a seven-month educational program sponsored by the Metropolitan Water District and local water agencies, the competition calls for high school teams to build, equip and race their own solar-powered boats.

Pamela Park staff have worked with teams from Duarte High School for more than five years. Special thanks go to Irving Montenegro, Gerald (Steve) Marin, Hector Torres and Aldo Torres for their hard work and strong commitment to the program.

In this year's competition, the qualifying event consisted of both a sprint and a test of endurance, with the latter involving 90-minute heats around a 1.7-kilometer course. On the concluding day, boats sprinted at top speed down a 200-meter course, followed by an awards ceremony during which each participant received an Olympic-style medal.

Results for the Pamela Park/Duarte High School team were impressive: it was the only squad to receive a perfect score on its technical reports, and it recorded a total of 800 points to place ninth overall out of 34 teams. Congratulations! — **Alba Ibarra**



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**Josh Servin**, Carpenter – *Regional Facilities Agency*  
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**Hugo Maldonado**, Regional Operations Manager – *Regional Facilities Agency*  
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## HIGH FIVE



RECOGNIZING YOUR SERVICE

I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation for your work with the L.A. County Junior Golf Program.

My 3 year-old daughter, Layla Phillips was a participant in this summer's L.A. County Junior Golf Program at Los Amigos Golf Course in Downey. Even as the youngest golfer in her cohort, Layla was able to receive quality golf instruction and an enriched learning experience, which may have been unavailable to her and others, were it not for your daily efforts.

Layla has begun to develop a love for the game of golf. Her father and I wish to continue to nurture and support her pursuit, which is made possible by initiatives like the L.A. County Junior Golf Program.

Layla is already looking forward to returning to the L.A. County Junior Golf Program next summer.



Please keep us informed of any other junior golf opportunities you may have throughout the year.

Keep up the great work!

**Jasimen Phillips**

**H**il I am Mrs. Shay the 5th & 6th grade GATE teacher from Dean L. Shively Middle School. I wanted to thank both you and Max [Lucero] for helping my students prepare for the Los Angeles County Science Olympiad animal tracking event. Due to Max's outstanding job teaching my students how to look for animals we scored a perfect score in that event. This score helped us win a gold medal and attain the highest score our school has ever achieved.

Thank you again,

**Mrs. Shay and the 5th and 6th grade GATE class**

Dean L. Shively Middle School  
South El Monte, CA

(Sent to Colleen MacKay/Whittier Narrows Nature Center)

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